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you are hereby directed to inform the several companies interested, that, for their own safety, as well as for the protection of this country, against the infection of contagious diseases, the laws and regulations of the United States will be strictly enforced by you, and that it is required of the said companies to provide the necessary means for their proper compliance with said laws and regulations, as has been done in European ports for several years past, and as is still carried out by them under the direction of a sanitary inspector, or the United States consul, where no inspector is on duty.

Respectfully, yours,

WALTER WYMAN,  
*Supervising Surgeon-General U. S. M. H. S.*

Dr. STUART ELDRIDGE,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S., Yokohama, Japan.*

In view of the almost constant presence of infectious disease in China and Japan, it is highly desirable, in the interests of all concerned, that, as soon as possible, the needful appliances for the due enforcement of the law should be supplied. As matters now are, anything but a most perfunctory compliance with the quarantine regulations of the United States is impossible, and as with this the authorities at Washington refuse longer to be satisfied, in the case of the appearance of any important infectious disease, such as cholera or plague, I shall, in default of the requisite means for strict compliance with the regulations, be compelled to take action which will practically amount to the prohibition of all steerage travel.

I am, sir, very sincerely,  
STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF UNITED STATES,  
*Kanagawa (Yokohama), May 19, 1897.*

Approved:

N. W. McIVOR, *Consul-General.*

To agents of steamship companies plying between China and Japan and the United States.

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Plague and smallpox in Japan.*

YOKOHAMA, *May 21, 1897.*

SIR: I regret to be unable to send my regular detailed report of infectious disease in Japan by this mail. I have, however, the honor to inform you that the smallpox epidemic is rapidly drawing to a close throughout the country. In Yokohama, during the past two weeks, there have been but 5 cases and 1 death.

The news regarding the plague in Formosa is by no means so satisfactory. From the 14th to the 20th of the present month the return of cases is as follows: Taichu, 10 cases; Tainan, 101 cases; Taihoku, 1 case; total, 112. No report of deaths.

There is little doubt that the actual number of cases is much larger than is officially reported.

Quarantine against Formosa is in force at all Japanese ports south of Yokohama. Here they seem to be depending on the necessary length of the voyage—in my opinion, a mistake.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STUART ELDRIDGE,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*